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Animal Crackers

M. Josephine Deubler
University of Pennsylvania

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ANIMAL CRACKERS

THE AKC'S WORLD OF THE PURE-BRED DOG

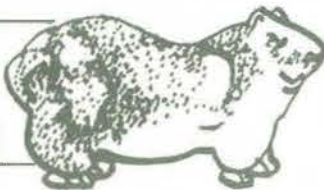


In 1984, the American Kennel Club and the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania will celebrate Centennials. There will be many special events, including the American Kennel Club's 100th Anniversary Dog Show to be held at the Philadelphia Civic Center, November 17-18, 1984. As an "opening gun" AKC has published *The AKC's World of the Pure-Bred Dog* (Howell Book House, 1983, \$29.95). This handsome book gives a wealth of information on the rich and diverse world of the dog. There is information about the 125 registrable breeds and AKC-sponsored activities—Dog Shows, Obedience and Tracking Trials, and Field Trials. There are chapters on the Dog in Art and the Dog in Prose, Famous Dogs and Their People, Dogs Serving Man, and the AKC itself. There are many photographs and a full-color section with thirty-three of the world's most outstanding examples of painting and sculpture paying tribute to the dog. The book celebrates both dogs and the AKC's one hundredth birthday.

Some facts from the text:

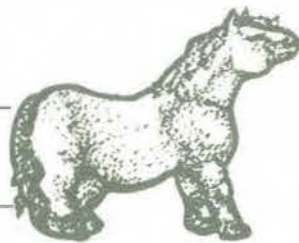
- There is no provision under which individuals can join the AKC—it is an association of clubs. Delegates from member clubs must be amateurs.
- In 1929, the first edition of what is now titled *The Complete Dog Book* appeared. Its contents include the breed standards—the "world pattern" against which the dog is to be judged in the show ring. The current edition is the sixteenth.
- In 1936, the first Obedience Trial was held.
- AKC is the largest animal registry in the world. It also governs the sport of pure-breed dogs in the United States. In 1945, 147,707 dogs were registered and there was a combined total of 394 events (Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, and Field Trials). In 1980, there were 1,011,799 dogs registered and a total of 8,885 events.
- The AKC Library at 51 Madison Avenue, New York City, is the largest collection of dog-related books and periodicals available to the public in this country.
- The Dog Museum of America was opened at 51 Madison Avenue, New York City, in 1982. Exhibitions of canine art are open to the public.
- AKC registrable breeds are divided into seven groups. Group I (sporting) includes twenty-four breeds, all of them developed for hunting feathered game. Group II (hounds) hunt non-feathered game—there are twenty hound breeds at this time. Pharaoh hounds will be added in 1984. Group III is the Working Group (eighteen breeds with Portuguese water dogs to be added in 1984). There are twenty-three breeds in Group IV, the terriers. The toys (fifteen breeds) are Group V. The Non-Sporting Group (Group VI) is the smallest with eleven breeds and Tibetan spaniels to be added in 1984. Group VII, the Herding Group, was established in 1982 when fourteen breeds were transferred from the Working Group.

THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB



The Canadian Kennel Club registers some breeds not recognized by the American Kennel Club. They also do not as yet recognize some AKC breeds (Ibizan hounds and American Staffordshire terriers). They require a tattoo or nose print to identify each dog registered. One of the breeds recognized in Canada but not by AKC is the Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever which lures and then retrieves waterfowl. The tolling dog runs, jumps, and plays along the shoreline, arousing the curiosity of ducks swimming offshore which are lured within gunshot range. Another breed, recognized in Canada but which has not been seen at Canadian shows for a number of years is the Drever. It is said to be one of the most popular breeds in Sweden and looks like a cross between a beagle and a basset. Canadian shows offer classes for German long-haired pointers, wire-haired vizslas, Canadian Eskimo dogs, Karelian bear dogs, and Mexican hairless. The AKC withdrew the Mexican hairless from its official roster in 1959, although it was popular at one time and was shown in the United States as early as 1883.

GENETIC DEFECTS



Nearly two-hundred genetic defects have been identified in purebred dogs and the number is increasing. There are frequent reports in scientific publications on inherited diseases and new information showing that diseases, while not wholly hereditary, are influenced by genetic factors. As a general rule, there is no way to treat genetic diseases. They must be eliminated through selective breeding programs. Unfortunately, many puppies that die at any early age are simply discarded and no attempt is made to determine the cause of death. There is no organized reporting system to help accumulate factual information on genetic diseases. What is needed is cooperation between breeders, scientists, and breed organizations. Far too much undocumented information has been published.

The breeder has the responsibility of using the best specimens available. Each breed has its special characteristics and what is ideal for one breed might be a serious fault in another. Each breed club should develop a program to identify and tabulate problems in that breed.

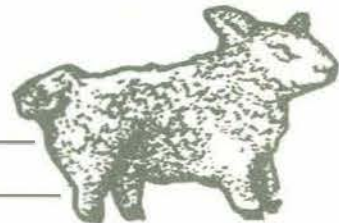
Very little good information is available. A recent publication, *Medical and Genetic Aspects of Purebred Dogs*, edited by Ross D. Clark, D.V.M. and Joan R. Stainer, Veterinary Medicine Publishing Company, 1983 (\$49.50), gives information on 130 breeds. Several hundred breeders and veterinarians contribute information on the different breeds. There is some good information presented, much of it gleaned from reviews by other authors, along with undocumented statements and incorrect facts. A large part of the material seems to be the opinion of the writers rather than scientifically collected and analyzed data. In many breeds, information on genetic problems is incomplete. The book should be of interest to breeders and veterinarians but it should not be considered a definitive reference on genetic diseases of the dog.

CANCER

Cancer is uncontrolled growth of cells, invading surrounding normal tissues and spreading throughout the body. Cure is possible if diagnosed early and treated properly. Methods of treatment include surgical removal, radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy. Common signs of cancer in pets are:

- Abnormal swellings that continue to grow
- Sores that do not heal
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose, urinary tract, vagina, or rectum
- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating, swallowing, breathing, urinating, or defecating
- Loss of appetite, weight, or energy
- Persistent lameness or stiffness of movement

Examine the animal often and obtain veterinary advice if unusual signs are noticed. The cause may not be cancer, but the earlier the condition is diagnosed and treated, the better the chance of successful treatment.



DIARRHEA

Diarrhea is a sign and not a specific disease. There are many causes, including scavenging, excitement, sudden changes in diet and unfamiliar water. Intestinal parasites and viral diseases also may cause vomiting and diarrhea. If diarrhea persists for more than twenty-four hours, you should see your veterinarian immediately. Home treatment includes fasting for twenty-four hours followed by a bland diet. Ice cubes and Pepto-Bismol may help, but avoid other medications unless prescribed by a veterinarian. Adding bran to the diet may be useful in controlling diarrhea.

Giardiasis is a diarrheal disease caused by a microscopic protozoan parasite. Giardia is a common intestinal parasite in humans and it has been found in dogs, cats, and other animals. There are carriers and cross infections which may occur between animals and humans. The disease is transmitted by ingestion of contaminated water or food. Carriers may show no signs. Infections may cause loss of weight in spite of a good appetite and adequate diet and, in some cases, there is severe diarrheal disease.

Giardia is diagnosed by finding the parasite in the feces. It is shed intermittently so repeated examinations may be necessary. It is not found by the flotation methods used for other intestinal parasites—special techniques must be used.